

1941

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Carmarthen Rural Sanitary Authority

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# 50th Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Conditions of the Carmarthen  
Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1941

BY

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CARMARTHEN.

Printed by W. Spurrell & Son, King Street

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# PREFACE.

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## **To the Chairman and Members of the Carmarthen Rural District Council.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1941, which is in the form suggested by Circular 2604 (Wales).

The Public Health Department has managed to carry out the many increased duties placed upon it, and in addition the members of the Public Health Staff have organised voluntary schemes and participated in various voluntary services.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by my staff, and to thank the members of the Council for the whole-hearted manner in which they have supported me.

I wish to thank my colleagues and their staffs for their continued support and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**ELFYN T. JONES.**

**Medical Officer of Health :**

ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health :**

DILYS LLOYD-DAVIES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B.,  
B.S. (London), (Resigned in September).

**Clerk to the Rural District Council :**

F. GWYNNE LEWIS, Esq.

**Engineer and Surveyor :**

W. E. JONES, M.I.M. and C.Y.E., M.R.SAN.I.

**Sanitary Inspectors :**

WM. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I. (Meat Certificate).  
(Senior Sanitary Inspector).

W. EMLYN JONES, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.  
(Meat Certificate).

H. E. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.  
(Meat Certificate).

**Clerks to the Medical Officer of Health :**

G. GRIFFITHS.

MISS J. P. JONES.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area is preponderantly rural in character, only that portion bordering on the coal-fields being non-agricultural. The boundaries have been unaltered during the year and the area is 202,733 acres.

The rateable value is £62,560, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £260 13s. 4d.

### Vital Statistics.

			Total	Males	Females.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	441	236	205
	Illegitimate	...	20	11	9
Stillbirths	...	...	19	12	7
Deaths	...	...	372	188	184

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.00	0.00
Other Puerperal Causes ...	1.00	2.16
Total ...	1.00	2.16

### Infantile Mortality (under 1 year of age).

All infants per 1,000 live births—76.28.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—77.58.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—47.61.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—28.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—1.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—3.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—2.

### Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the area during the year is 372. Males—188. Females—184.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Penlan Road, Carmarthen, which was opened last year, firmly established itself, and has become a recognised and also a most important factor in the supervision of the public health. The Laboratory has dealt with vast numbers of specimens for bacteriological investigation, and the assistance given by Doctors Fry and Boissard has been invaluable. Although the establishment of this Laboratory is a war-time measure, I sincerely hope that it will be made a permanent institution as its assistance to the Public Health Department cannot be too highly rated.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### **Water Supply.**

Mr. W. E. Jones, Engineer, has provided details of work carried out during the year. He reports as follows:—

During the year the various supplies in the Rural District were as far as possible maintained in proper repair.

One small new supply was constructed for the village of Four Roads in the parish of Llangendeirne. In the past, householders carried their water by consent of the owner from a dip-well situated in a field at some distance from the village. The Council entered into an agreement with the Owner for the use of the water, a new spring chamber was constructed, and the supply brought in asbestos cement pipes to a brick built underground tank near the centre of the village. On this tank a pump was installed at a convenient point for the consumers to obtain their supply.

Permanent Chlorinating Plants were installed during the year on the two largest supplies in the Rural District, viz., Llanarthney

and Llanddarog water supply scheme and St. Ishmael water supply scheme.

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During the year an endeavour was made to have a bacteriological analysis of all water supplies under the control of the Council.

A careful watch was kept on all water supplies, samples being submitted for analysis, and in addition inspection of the source of water supplies was carried out.



## Samples of Water taken during the year.

Date	Source	Type of Examination	Result
9/1/41	Western Supply, Llanstephan ...	Bacteriological	Excellent
9/1/41	Eastern Supply, Llanstephan ...	"	Excellent
13/1/41	Well at Eiros, Macsybont ...	"	Fairly good
13/1/41	Well at Penlan, Maesybont ...	"	Unsatisfactory
15/1/41	Well near Constant Farm, ... Llandefeilog	"	Unfit for drinking without Chlorination
13/2/41	Tap No. 4, Nr. Gwynfryn School, Pontyates	"	Very satisfactory
13/2/41	Tap No. 2, Nr. Gwynfryn School, Pontyates	"	Very satisfactory
28/2/41	Land Spring Water from Cwm- fforddgoch Reservoir, Ferryside	"	Unsatisfactory
7/4/41	Ditto ...	"	Unsatisfactory
29/5/41	Water Supplying Houses at ... Nantgaredig	"	Excellent
12/6/41	Surface Water from Collecting Chamber, Nantgaredig	"	Unfit for drinking without purification
17/6/41	Water from Village Pump, The Lakes, Laugharne	"	Unsatisfactory
17/6/41	Shallow Well Water from Pump at Gosport House, Laugharne	"	Unsatisfactory
23/6/41	Nantgaredig Village Spring ... Supply	"	Satisfactory
30/6/41	Gwendraeth River below Llan- defeilog	"	Bad
30/6/41	Gwendraeth River below Pont- antwn	"	Bad
30/6/41	Gwendraeth River below Llan- gendeirne	"	Bad
30/6/41	Gwendraeth River Branches at Cwmisfael	"	Bad
30/6/41	Gwendraeth River below Porth- yrhyd	"	Bad
11/7/41	Corvus Well, St. Clears ...	"	Good
11/7/41	Glasfryn Well, St. Clears ...	"	Good
11/7/41	Water from Storage Tank, ... Troedybryn Hostel, St. Clears	"	Good

Date	Source	Type of Examination	Result
18/7/41	Kieffe Well, St. Clears ...	„	Unsatisfactory
18/7/41	Gardde Well, St. Clears ...	„	Satisfactory
23/7/41	Land Spring Water taken from Tap at Carway Village	„	Satisfactory
28/7/41	Llwynyfilwr Farm, Meinciau, ... Pontyates	„	Unsatisfactory
20/8/41	Carmarthen Junction, G.W.R.	„	Satisfactory
6/10/41	Dip Well, Broadlay, Ferryside	„	Very bad
5/11/41	Water from School Lane Pump, Laugharne	„	Unfit for use without purification
5/11/41	Water from Church Pump, ... Laugharne	„	Unfit for use without purification
5/11/41	Water from Lacques Pump, ... Laugharne	„	Unfit for use without purification
5/11/41	Water from Gosport Pump, ... Laugharne	„	Unfit for use without purification
6/11/41	Old Supply, Coomb, Llangynog	Chemically	Fairly satisfactory
6/11/41	New Supply, Coomb, Llangynog	„	More satisfactory
7/11/41	Troedybryn Hostel, St. Clears	Bacteriological	Fairly satisfactory
7/11/41	Well Water from Agricultural Hostel, St. Clears	„	Unfit for drinking without purification.
19/11/41	Water from School Lane Well, Laugharne	„	Good
19/11/41	Water from Church Well, ... Laugharne	„	Fair
19/11/41	Water from Lacques Well, ... Laugharne	„	Fair
19/11/41	Water from Gosport Well, ... Laugharne	„	Unsatisfactory
1/12/41	Old Supply, Coomb, Llangynog	„	Unsatisfactory for drinking without purification
1/12/41	New Supply, Coomb, Llangynog	„	Unsatisfactory for drinking without purification
5/12/41	Well Water from Agricultural Hostel, St. Clears	„	Unsatisfactory for drinking without purification
22/12/41	Shallow Well Water from the ... Village Pump at Llanarthney	„	Unsatisfactory for drinking without purification

## SCHOOLS.

There are 56 Elementary Schools (57 departments) in the area, and there has been no change during the year.

### Schools Closed for Infectious Diseases, 1941.

Name of School.	Infectious Disease.	Period of Closure.
Whitemill Council ...	Influenza, ... Whooping Cough & Chicken Pox.	11th Feb.—23rd Feb.
Vaughan's Charity, ... Llangunnoch.	Influenza ...	20th Feb—2nd Mch.
Conwil Elfed Council ...	Measles ...	27th May—8th June.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The area is divided into three sections, each of which is supervised by a Sanitary Inspector. Emergency War work, including A.R.P., Salvage, Evacuation, etc., has caused many interruptions in the normal services of the sanitary inspectors.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The assistance given by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, at Penlan Road, Carmarthen, has been invaluable, and I desire to place on record my appreciation of the services rendered by the Laboratory, and in particular that of Doctors Fry and Boissard.

The number of notifications received under the Public Health Act, 1936, was 280.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever accounted for 48 of the cases, 20 cases of Diphtheria and 10 cases of Scarlet Fever were isolated in the Isolation Hospitals.

The number of cases of Measles notified was 184, which showed a slight increase on the figure for the previous year.

A decided increase was noted in the number of Whooping Cough cases, which numbered 38 as compared with 14 of the previous year.

### Isolation of Infectious Disease Cases during 1941.

Disease	1940		1941		
	No. of Notifications	No. Admitted to Hospital	No. of Notifications		No. Admitted to Hospital
			R. D. C.	EVACS.	
Scarlet Fever ...	49	17	12	9	10
Diphtheria ...	30	22	25	2	20
Erysipelas ...	3	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	5	0	7	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	3	3	1	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0	2	0	0
Measles ... ..	155	0	182	2	0
Whooping Cough	14	0	38	0	0
Total ...	262	42	267	13	31

### Immunisation against Diphtheria.

In March the Rural District Council in conjunction with the Borough Council appointed Dr. Dilys Lloyd-Davies as an assistant to the Medical Officer of Health. During the year a campaign for the immunisation against Diphtheria was actively pursued throughout the district.

Out of 56 Elementary Schools, 45 schools were visited, to-

gether with 26 Evacuated Elementary Schools and one Evacuated Secondary School, and as a result the following number of children were immunised:—

### **Rural District School children.**

Number immunised during the year—1,747, making a total of 2,945 children immunised in the Rural District, i.e. 78.6% of the school population.

### **Elementary Evacuated School children.**

Number immunised during the year—701.

### **Secondary Evacuated School children.**

Number immunised during the year—68.

### **Children under 5 years of age.**

Carmarthen Rural District Council is not the responsible Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare, but as the Elementary Schools seem the appropriate centres for children under five to be brought to, the County Council were notified in advance what schools the Assistant Medical Officer proposed visiting so that the Local Health Visitor could arrange for the attendance of children aged one to five years. The number of children under five years of age immunised by the Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health was 366.

Unfortunately, the Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health resigned her appointment in mid-September, and it has not been found possible to visit the schools with the regularity prevailing before her departure. However, every effort is being made to make the necessary arrangements for those areas not yet visited to be so as soon as practicable.

### **Licences held in the Rural District Area under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1936 and 1938.**

No. of Tuberculin Tested Licences—120.

No. of Accredited Licences—506.

No. of Pasteurised Licences—2.

### **Milk Sampling.**

Sampling of ungraded milk was carried out by your inspectors, whilst sampling of tuberculin tested and accredited milk was done by the County Council Officials.

- (a) No. of Tuberculin Tested Milk samples sent for bacteriological examination—200.
- (b) No. of Accredited Milk samples sent for bacteriological examination—1,274.
- (c) No. of ungraded milk samples taken—11.  
     No. of ungraded milk samples satisfactory—6.  
     No. of ungraded milk samples unsatisfactory—5.  
     No. of ungraded milk samples examined for Tubercle Bacilli—Nil.

The position with regard to ungraded milk samples is still far from satisfactory. Producer-retailers and retailers of milk must realise the importance of scrupulous cleanliness in all details in the production and retailing of milk. It should be remembered that milk is an important part of a nation's diet, particularly so of the child population, and clean milk can lead to good health, whereas unclean milk can have the opposite effect. In the Rural Area there are some 3,500 farms, and although the Public Health Department has only three Sanitary Inspectors on its staff every effort is made to supervise milk production at these farms, and particular attention is paid to those farms which do not come up to the required standard. The Sanitary Inspectors some times come across cases where milk is being produced without a licence having first being obtained from the Council—this is a duty of all milk producers under the Milk and Dairies Order, and I should be grateful if the members, particularly the farming members of the Council, would make this fact known to the farming community amongst whom they mix so intimately.

### **Meat.**

Throughout the year the abattoir in Carmarthen was used as the central place for the slaughtering of cattle, all other slaughterhouses in the Rural District being closed. The Sanitary Inspectors attend at the abattoir at stated intervals and carry out inspection of carcasses slaughtered.



**Tuberculosis.**

During the year 34 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

Respiratory— Males—16 Females—10

Non-Respiratory—Males— 1 Females— 7

**Deaths.**

Respiratory— Males—8 Females—7

Non-Respiratory—Males—1 Females—1

**New Cases of, and Mortality from Tuberculosis, 1941.**

Age Period Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
5—15	1	1	0	4	1	1	0	0
15—25	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
25—35	5	4	0	1	5	3	0	1
35—45	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
45—55	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
55—65	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Totals ...	16	10	1	7	8	7	1	1

**Rates per 1,000 Population of Notifications and Deaths.**

Year	Notifications (New Cases)	Deaths
1936	1.19	1.08
1937	1.31	0.92
1938	0.75	0.54
1939	0.87	0.47
1940	0.78	0.53
1941	1.11	0.54

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.						Llangendeirne District.	Carmarthen District.	St. Clears District.	Total.
<b>GENERAL SANITATION.</b>									
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	75	58	22	155
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	204	93	20	317
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	45	47
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	7
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	3	23	...	26
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	15	17
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	8
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	16	2	...	18
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	10	37	16	63
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	46	117	71	431
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	51		146	
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	6	16	21	43
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	28	3	...	31
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	61	92	186	339
Emergency War Work (Salvage, A.R.P., etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	340	270	201	811
<b>HOUSING.</b>									
<b>Under Public Health Acts.</b>									
Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	20	27	10	57
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	36	32	21	89
<b>Under Housing Acts.</b>									
Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	10	36	8	54
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	24	41	21	86
<b>Overcrowding.</b>									
Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	...	12
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	...	12
<b>Vermineous Premises.</b>									
Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	5	7
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	8	10
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA *(continued)*.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.				Llangendeirne District.	Carmarthen District.	St. Clears District.	Total.
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASE.</b>							
Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	125	70	85	280
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	27	15	92	134
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	33	20	42	95
<b>MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.</b>							
<b>Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops.</b>							
No. of Slaughterhouses in area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. of Visits made to above Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	28	...	...	28
No. of visits to Central Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	30	32	38	100
No. of visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	13	...	...	13
No. of visits to Butchers	...	...	...	...	5	...	5
<b>Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.</b>							
No. of Producers in Area	...	...	...	(3,750	in whole District)		
No. of Retail Purveyors in Area	...	...	...	(260	,, ,, ,, )		
No. of Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	...	198	67	132	397
No. of New Cowsheds provided	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
No. of Cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	4	23	...	27
<b>NOTICES SERVED.</b>							
<b>Under the Housing Acts.</b>							
No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	17	10	27
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	16	10	26
No. of formal notices served	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
No. of formal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
<b>Under the Public Health Acts.</b>							
No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	10	8	3	21
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	6	8	3	17
No. of formal notices served	...	...	...	4	...	2	6
No. of formal notices complied with	...	...	...	4	...	2	6
<b>Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.</b>							
No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	23	...	23
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	23	...	23

## HOUSING.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	111
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... ..	175
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Hous- ing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 ... ..	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	25
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	10

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	34
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

#### A.—*Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners ... ..	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

#### B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	23
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners ... ..	4
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

#### C.—*Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil

#### D.—*Proceeding under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil



